

# CIA Chief Grew Roses, Now Raises a Spy Crop

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Adm. William F. Raborn

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WASHINGTON

A retired vice admiral, living out of the public eye, with an unusual and incongruous interest in flowers, considering the fact that he commands a world-wide secret intelligence organization. Who? "M," of course, chief of the British secret service and like his ace spy, James Bond, the creation of the late Ian Fleming.

Vice-Admiral William F. Raborn has been living out of the public eye since he retired from the U. S. Navy in September, 1963. His hobby is growing roses. And last Sunday, President Johnson named him Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a world-wide secret intelligence organization.

There, however, the resemblance ends. Unlike the head of M. I. 6, the British intelligence service, whose identity is known only to a handful of tight-lipped Englishmen in Whitehall, the U. S. Director of Central Intelligence is, up to a point, a public figure.

His name is known, and so is his salary: \$30,000 a year.

On or about May 1, after he is confirmed by the Senate, Adm. Raborn, 59, will move into the seventh-floor office of the CIA's pastoral headquarters in Langley, Va., succeeding John Alex McCone, 63, the CIA chief placed there by the late President Kennedy on Nov. 29, 1961, after the Bay of Pigs disaster.

For the important \$28,500 a year post of Deputy Director of CIA, the President chose Richard McGarrah Helms, 52, a newspaperman before World War II turned professional intelligence operator. Since early 1962 he has been CIA Deputy Director for Plans. Plans is a euphemism for secret intelligence operations.

The choice of Adm. Raborn, who developed the Navy's remarkable Polaris missile, ends President Johnson's search of many months for his own man to run the nation's powerful intelligence and espionage machinery.

The New York Herald Tribune reported last Dec. 2 that Mr. McCone would be leaving the government. His age, family considerations, extensive business interests on the West Coast, and the fact that a President normally selects his own choice for the super-sensitive CIA post all played a part in the changeover at Langley.

The difference in the approach to intelligence secrecy in this country and in Britain is nowhere better illustrated than in the fact that Adm. Raborn, during the 1964 Presidential campaign, was an active supporter of President Johnson and attacked Sen. Barry Goldwater on a nationwide telecast two days before election. Had "M" engaged in such partisan activity, he would never have been placed in charge of Universal Export, the cover name for Bond's secret service.

In Washington, it would be the rare observer who argued that the admiral's political stand hurt his popularity with President Johnson.

## PANEL MEMBER

"I just think," Adm. Raborn said in a campaign telecast Nov. 1, 1964, over the ABC network, "that in all seriousness that Senator Goldwater joins me and a lot of other people—he's just not smart enough to be President of the United States."

Adm. Raborn participated in the show as a member of a panel of scientists and engineers for Johnson-Humphrey. The group of 42 organizing members was put together by Dr. Donald M. MacArthur, a chemist here who is married to the President's niece, the former Diane Taylor.

Last July, the scientists panel heard that Adm. Raborn, vice-president of the Aerojet-General Corp., the giant California missile and electronics firm, would be one of a relatively small number of prominent retired military men who would not back Sen. Goldwater. Dan A. Kimball, a Democratic party fund raiser, chairman of the board of Aerojet-General and former Navy Secretary under President Truman, joined the panel, along with Adm. Raborn.

On the TV panel, Adm. Raborn also disagreed with Sen. Goldwater's stand on control of nuclear weapons. "There's just no alternative to a single responsibility for nuclear weapons," he asserted.

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